

REMEDICATION AND REDEVELOPMENT (RR) NEWS FROM WISCONSIN DNR
June 25, 2001

JOINT FINANCE ACTION ON BROWNFIELDS

The Legislature's Joint Committee on Finance (JFC) has taken the following actions on brownfields in the Governor's proposed 2001-03 budget:

- retaining the site assessment grant at DNR,
- retaining a brownfields staff person at DNR,
- providing \$1.7 million per year to DNR for site assessment grants,
- providing \$7 million per year for Commerce grants, with modifications to the grant criteria and grant cycle,
- creating a \$1 million brownfields green space grant program at DNR,
- providing DNR with 5 project positions for the geo-location of brownfields,
- retaining the Sustainable Urban Development Zone program, and giving DNR \$525,000 to support it,
- streamlining the land recycling loan program, and
- providing \$375,000 to the Milwaukee Economic Development Corp. and \$375,000 to Menomonee Valley Partners each year of the biennium (total \$750,000 per year), and specifying conditions on the award and use of those funds.

JOINT FINANCE ACTION ON PECFA

JFC also acted on the Governor's proposals for PECFA that may have some direct or indirect effects on DNR's oversight of cleanups. The Governor's budget (see June 2001 edition of ReNews: <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/aw/rr/archives/pubs/RR665.pdf>) included a proposed definition of "high-cost sites", establishing deadlines for closure of high-cost sites, transfer to Commerce of certain sites that become high cost sites after November 30, 2001 and loss of PECFA reimbursement for interest costs at sites not cleaned up in a timely manner. Of these items, JFC passed only proposed limits on interest reimbursement. JFC did not adopt any of the Governor's proposals regarding high cost sites. The resolution adopted by JFC would make an applicant ineligible for further interest reimbursement if a final claim was not submitted within 120 days from receipt of written notification that no further action is necessary at a site (the Governor's proposal contained a period of 60 days). The resolution would also end all interest reimbursement if the site investigation was not completed within 5 years from notification of the release or 2 years from the effective date of the legislation, whichever is later. Much legislative action is still to come before the Senate and Assembly forward a final budget bill to Governor McCallum.

NEW BROWNFIELD SUCCESS STORY

The RR Program has recently released "CenturyTel: A Successful Partnership for La Crosse" (Publication # RR-662). The new brochure highlights successful brownfield redevelopment in La Crosse, where an abandoned industrial area was cleaned up and turned into CenturyTel's new Midwest regional telecommunications headquarters. The success story is available on the RR web site at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/aw/rr/> (use the Publications button), or call the RR Information Line at 800-367-6076 (in-state long distance) or 608-264-6020 (Madison area or out-of-state long

distance). We prepare these "success story" summaries to showcase cleanup and redevelopment projects, and to demonstrate how redevelopment options work in the cleanup of contaminated sites.

NEW EPA WEB PAGE ON ENVIRONMENTAL INSURANCE FOR BROWNFIELDS

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has created a new web page that provides a wealth of information about how insurance can be used to help with brownfields cleanup and redevelopment. The web page links to a number of comprehensive reports and studies from EPA and other federal agencies. They describe the different environmental insurance products available to address risks and liability issues involved with cleanup at contaminated sites. They also include company specific information on insurance brokers and underwriters who are active in this market. You can access this web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/swerosps/bf/insurebf.htm>

MIDWEST GROUND WATER CONFERENCE

The 46th annual Midwest Ground Water Conference will be held at the Inn on the Park in Madison on October 22-24, 2001. This conference, held in a different state each year, provides an opportunity for midwest hydrogeologists, geologists, engineers, students and others interested in groundwater issues to interact. There will be a Dane County field trip led by Ken Bradbury of the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey on Oct. 22, and technical presentations Oct. 23 and Oct. 24 until noon. The planning committee is accepting abstracts for oral or poster presentations through June 30, 2001. For more information, check out the Water Resources Institute website at <http://wri.wisc.edu/> Contact Dave Lindorff, DNR, at 608-266-9265 if you have questions.

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